



NEWS

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**For Immediate Release
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Air District Extends Title V Public Comment Period

Responding to requests from concerned Bay Area residents, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) has extended the Title V public comment period by thirty (30) days for the Bay Area's five oil refineries. The new deadlines are:

Refinery

Valero
Shell/Martinez
Tesoro
Chevron
Phillips 66

New Public Comment Deadline

September 8th, 2002
September 13th, 2002
September 16th, 2002
September 27th, 2002
September 29th, 2002

Originally, the public comment period was 60 days. Concerned residents asked for additional time to examine and comment on the proposed Title V operation permits. The expansion to 90-days will provide residents with additional time to thoroughly review the permits and submit their comments.

The additional time will also enhance public participation and may increase the total number of comments received by the Air District. The comments will be considered and, where appropriate, incorporated into the existing permits, increasing accountability and enforcement while contributing to a healthier local environment.

During the public comment period, any member of the public may comment on any aspect of the proposed permits. Copies of the permits can be found:

- 1) On the Air District web site at www.baaqmd.gov (follow the Title V links),
- 2) In the public library of each community, and
- 3) At the Air District, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco. For an appointment call May Leung at (415) 749-4729.
- 4) For a hard copy of the permits, call the Public Information Office at (415) 749-4900 or write to: BAAQMD, Attn: Title V Permit Request, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

What is Title V?

Title V is part of the federal Clean Air Act and requires all state and local governments to develop and implement operating permits for all major pollution emitting facilities. The EPA oversees these permit programs and the Air District is charged with implementing them in the Bay Area, in accordance with Federal guidelines.

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Title V is intended to clarify the complex air quality permitting process by consolidating the multitude of federal, state, and local air pollution control regulations into one summary operating permit that covers all aspects of a facility's year-to-year air pollution activities. The Title V operating permit program is implemented under Air District Regulation 2, Rule 6. Public comment is important to the Title V process. A final decision will incorporate consideration of public comments on the proposals.

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